Site Considerations

An evaluation of the size of school sites indicates that all the educational facilities in the planning area with the exception of Morehead High, Central Elementary, and Lakeside Elementary are below the standards recommended by the Division of School Planning. The present size of each school site and the approximate number of acres that each is deficient is shown in Table 7. Plans that have been made for consolidating the Leaksville-Spray and Draper Junior High Schools will correct some of the existing site deficiencies. When the new school is opened the entire fourteen acre site at Draper will be used by the elementary school. This site is larger than the recommended minimum size. See Table 7. The Leaksville-Spray Junior High which will be used as an elementary school is slightly less than the minimum of ten acres recommended for this type of school. Acerage deficiencies of other school sites which are below the minimum standards can be corrected by acquiring more land. There are vacant parcels of land adjacent to the Douglass School and North Spray Elementary School. Burton Grove Elementary, Spray Graded, and Leaksville Graded Schools are ringed by development that make acquisition more difficult and expensive. The site of Leaksville Graded School could be enlarged by acquisition of the block immediately behind the school, between Monroe and Henry Streets. Similarly, enlargement of the Spray Graded School grounds will involve purchasing and clearing adjoining residential property. In both instances additional acreage may be acquired by direct purchase or through an urban renewal project. Acquisition of land in the vicinity of the Burton Grove School is complicated by the street pattern, topography, and surrounding land use.

Location Consideration

The generally accepted standards for locations of schools in urban areas (See Table 4) are not applicable to schools in the Leaksville Township School District. Since the attendance area of the local schools is considerably larger than Leaksville, Draper, and Spray, the location of schools is based on the needs of pupils being transported by bus as well as the needs of those pupils who live within walking distance. Although bus transportation is used extensively for junior and senior high students, it is desirable to have elementary schools distributed so that they are within 1/2 a mile of children living in the densely developed parts of the planning area. Circles that represent 1/2 mile radii have been inscribed around the existing elementary schools. See Figure 9. It is apparent from looking at the map that parts of residential neighborhoods on the west side of Leaksville, in the western and southern parts of Draper, and in the Central Area are beyond this 1/2 mile service area, while some residential sections in Leaksville and Spray are within 1/2 mile of more than one grammer school.